



Assembly Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-2081

April 21, 2019

Re: Oppose to AB-1320, Divestment Sanctions

Dear Sir or Madam:

AB-1320 is yet another racist Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions measure. While typical BDSs attack Israel, this one attacks Turkey, another U.S. ally in a critical part of the world.

The Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC), which has chapters in Los Angeles, Irvine, Ventura, and San Diego, Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California of San Diego (ATASC-SD), Ventura County American Turkish Association (VATAN), Orange County Turkish American Association (OCTAA), and Los Angeles Turkish American Association (LATAA) are non-profit organizations that serve the community.

BDSs are not helpful because they attack an entire people and cause counter-productive results. Moreover, AB-1320 BDS is even more troublesome because it concerns events more than 100 years ago in an ancient empire that does not exist, and exacts retribution against the people of modern Turkey, three generations removed.

AB-1320 gives the false appearance that it complies with Federal policy regarding Turkey, whereas it is the position of the United States not to characterize the events of 1915 as genocide. This position was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court which let stand an 9th Circuit 11-0 decision that invalidated a California law similar to AB-1310 because it characterized the Armenian case as genocide.

The United States' position not to characterize Armenian allegations as genocide is also supported by the United Nations, which has four time rejected the claim, 1986, 2000, 2007, and 2015. And, the United States's position is shared by the European Council, because in 2015 the European Court of Human Rights High Commission held the the Armenian case was not a proven case of genocide under international law.

Finally, AB-1320 lies to pensioners and fiduciary authority of the pension funds. AB-1320 injects ethnic feuds into the decision-making process of the boards of the pensions and then holds them harmless for fiduciary duty violations resulting from ethnic biases. In the end, AB-1320 places the California pensioner in the position to pay for the retribution which the Armenian lobby seeks. Thousand of Turkish Americans, like hundreds of thousands of California residents, are public servants, who do not wish to expose their financial stability during retirement to additional and irrelevant encumbrances outside of normal economic considerations.

Pension funds are not the appropriate venue to address ancient ethnic feuds.

Please oppose AB-1320. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Ergun Kirlikovali**

On Behalf of the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC)

**Nilay Senel-Nylund**

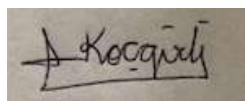
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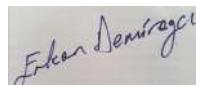
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Burcu Tansu

ATAA

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
West Coast V.P.